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October 11, 1901

2400

unable to ascertain the number of cases there, but by figuring on a mortality of 20 per cent, the estimated number of cases would indicate that the infection is diffused throughout the city. I have seen several cases in Merida and know positively of several others, and their location includes about every section of the town.

\* \* \* \* \*

Respectfully,

SAMUEL H. HODGSON,  
*Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.*

The SURGEON-GENERAL,  
*U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.*

*Concerning malarial fever on the steamship Segurança at Havana.*

PROGRESO, MEXICO, September 14, 1901.

SIR: I have the honor to make the following report for the week ended September 14:

From all causes there were 7 deaths, none from quarantinable diseases.

In the shipping there have been several cases of malarial fever, none of which can be attributed to this port. An alarming report was published in a Merida paper about 5 cases of yellow fever that were found aboard of the steamship *Segurança* upon her arrival from Havana, but upon investigation I found 3 men suffering from malarial infection that had been contracted in Tampico two weeks previously. On the return trip of the vessel all of the sick men were at work (at least, those that had been sick).

There does not seem to be any abatement in the yellow fever situation in Merida, 3 deaths having been reported during the past week.

There has been no case reported in this port for two weeks and no death during the summer.

Respectfully,

S. H. HODGSON,  
*Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.*

The SURGEON-GENERAL,  
*U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.*

*Report from Vera Cruz—Shower of birds in the city.*

VERA CRUZ, MEXICO, September 24, 1901.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report of the transactions at this station during the week ended September 21, 1901:

Five cases of yellow fever and 2 deaths from the disease are reported for the week.

The rainy season is now passed and again we have warm weather.

A remarkable phenomenon was witnessed in this city on Thursday, the 19th. Without apparent atmospheric cause, thousands of birds were dropped over the city dead, and many thousand more were found in an exhausted or crippled condition. The streets and the roofs of houses were strewn with the bodies of variously colored small birds which were picked up in baskets by the people. Several hundred were found on the roof of the consulate building. Most of the birds were of the sparrow size, but possessed variegated colors and were indigenous to Mexico.

On account of sickness, your medical officer was unable to inspect the passengers sailing on the steamship *Esperanza* on the 19th.